

# Rabbi Dayle A. Friedman, MSW, MAJCS, BCC

620 W. Mt. Airy Ave • Philadelphia, PA 19119  
Phone: 215 266 3647  
Email: [rabbidayle@growingolder.co](mailto:rabbidayle@growingolder.co)  
[www.growingolder.co](http://www.growingolder.co)



## Statement of Purpose

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To bring wholeness to the journey of later life, drawing upon the treasures of Jewish tradition and spiritual practice.

## Experience

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### **Founder, Hiddur: The Center for Aging and Judaism of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College**

**2003-2011**

Founded and directed multi-dimensional academic, clinical and community outreach program. Developed *Embracing Aging*, an initiative to infuse aging issues across the seminary's core formal and informal education. Served on the regular faculty; taught academic courses and offered clinical supervision. From 2003-2007, with a team of professional colleagues, offered trainings across North America for professionals, clergy and chaplains on spiritual dimensions of aging.

### **Director. Growing Older – Wisdom + Spirit Beyond Midlife**

**2010 – Present**

Launched this professional practice, which offers spiritual guidance, training and consultation for individuals, professionals and communities.

### **Spiritual director and consultant, Spiritual Direction Think Tank Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, Wyncote, PA**

**1997 – 1998; 1999 - 2002**

Contributed to research and conceptualization of the first program offering spiritual direction at a rabbinical seminary. Offered spiritual direction and participated in group supervision for directors.

### **Founding director of chaplaincy services Philadelphia Geriatric Center, Philadelphia, PA**

**1985 - 1997**

Created a rich and compelling Jewish life for 1100 elders in nursing home, independent living, and acute care. Provided pastoral care to residents, staff and family members. Created the first clinical training in aging for rabbinical and cantorial students. Founded and co-chaired medical ethics committee. Trained staff to foster cultural competency in a multi-cultural environment.

## Education

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### **Rabbinic ordination, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion**

**1985**

Thesis topic: The quest for self-definition: an examination of first through third century Jewish and Christian exegeses of the Akedah.

### **MA, Hebrew literature, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion**

**1983**

### **MSW, University of Southern California**

**1981**

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**MA, Jewish Communal Service, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion** 1981

Thesis topic: Among friends: a qualitative analysis of informal Jewish friendship circles.

**BA, Near Eastern and Judaic Studies, Brandeis University, Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa** 1978

**Board certified as a Jewish chaplain, National Association of Jewish Chaplains**

### Skills

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I am, by nature, an innovator. Throughout my career, I've drawn on concepts from Jewish tradition, imaginatively generating models and publications to create new pathways for elders, their families and the Jewish community at large. I am skilled in program development, teaching, and clinical supervision. I present in a wide array of settings, from keynote addresses at national conferences, to workshops at professional trainings and sermons in congregations. I am adept at tailoring trainings and presentations to each group's unique objectives. I am a compassionate and skilled spiritual guide, both in the context of spiritual direction, and in supporting elders and their families in making end-of-life medical decisions.

### Publications

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***Jewish Pastoral Care: A Practical Handbook from Traditional and Contemporary Sources.*** Woodstock, VT: Jewish Lights Publishing, 2nd edition, 2010. (Editor).

***Jewish Vision for Aging: A Professional Guide to Fostering Wholeness.*** Woodstock, VT: Jewish Lights Publishing. 2008.

***Journal of Religion, Spirituality and Aging, special issue on clergy training on aging.*** Guest editor. Winter, 2011. Over 40 journal and popular press articles; list available on request.

### Recent Honors and Awards

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Religion, Spirituality and Aging Award, American Society on Aging, 2011.

Sisterhood 50, listing of 50 most influential American women rabbis. The Forward. 2010.

Doctor of Divinity, honoris causa, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. 2010.

Doctor of Divinity, honoris causa, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. 2010.

Forward 50, 2008, list of 50 most influential American Jews compiled by the only weekly U.S. Jewish newspaper.

### References

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Available upon request.